

A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills and mountains under a bright sky. The foreground shows a steep, forested slope. The middle ground consists of several layers of hills, with the nearest one being a dark, forested ridge. The background shows more distant, lighter-colored hills. A semi-transparent dark green rectangular area is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "Where in the World?".

Where in
the World?

During the winter of 2012 and the spring of 2013, participants on the Arts for Health partnership programme in Castletownbere Community Hospital, their families, staff and members of the wider community connected to West Cork were invited to respond to a question:

‘Where in the world is the most beautiful place?’

Artist Tess Leak, gathered together these meditation-like responses through conversations, as a way of exchanging ideas about beauty between people both inside and outside of the hospital.

Contributors originated from the Beara Peninsula itself as well as England, Australia, the United States of America and Chile, with responses wide ranging both in geography and writing style. The launch in the hospital in June celebrated these beautiful places and the creativity of the people who wrote about them.

Bere Island on a calm day
Wild flowers and seagulls

Eileen

By the frozen
Lake Michigan,
Chicago,
Winter

Stephen

Coomerkane of course!
Because that is where I met
Joe, my husband.

Mary

My home place Leahill, Adrigole
If you stood on my doorstep
You would see Whiddy Island,
Rosscarbery and all along the shores
On a sunny day there would be
Every colour you could ask for
We could hear the waves coming in
In the morning-time and going
Out in the evening-time
Down, down, down to the bottom of
Our field and onto the shore
We would pick maedhan
And put it up on the rocks
To dry for eating later

Sheila

Dawn's sunrise
The ocean's ripples
Bears on a windless day

George

It is here
And it is also there
Corners still waiting for me
And I look around with the eyes closed
Autumn leaves in the twilight
Unexpected smiles
Wind
Melodies. Forever in
the company with the sea
Sun echoes
A letter voyage

Sol

Es aquí
Es ahí también
Rincones que aun esperan por mí
Y recorro con los ojos cerrados
Hojas de otoño al amanecer
Sonrisas inesperadas
Viento
Melodías. Siempre junto al mar
Ecos del sol
Viaje de letras

Sol

Bantry house:
If you could stay there
One or two nights
You would be happy!
From the top of the hundred steps
you can see the sea going way out
Small boats killing fish, taking in fish
maybe selling some but
bringing most of them home
If you salt the fish in a barrel
It will last all winter
It feels wonderful
To see everything from up there!

Mary

On a fine day, Gunnamore:
Looking over Bantry Bay, Glengarrif,
Garinish Island, Whiddy Island and
In the other direction you can see
The tunnels going to Kenmare.

Michael

Ballycrovane, my home place, is right in front of the sea. We get tidal waves about every hundred years and one night during a storm I heard a strange rattling. The tide came in fierce, struck the two quay walls and levelled the lot. It burst the front door right through and in minutes sea water had filled up to the ceiling. I ran upstairs and watched it from there.

Timothy

In the village of Kahunge, Uganda
Looking east along the equator
The Mountains of the Moon
Are covered in mist
Looking up into the sky
The peaks are covered in snow

Godfrey

In the hammock
Under the conker tree
At the end of the garden
On a sunny, soft-breezy day

Jan

Clouds lifting
Over Golden Bay
On the other side of the world
From here

Tess

It's beautiful to look
Out of my kitchen window
Early in the morning and
See the lights
From the boats going out
On the still water

Anna

Lake Wawasee in Indiana.
My cousins and I meet there every year in July. It's so hot you don't dare get out of the lake until sunset. We finally cool off in our swimming costumes on the porch. We watch the bright orange sun against a purple sky reflected on the water.

Liz

Dursey Island...
It reminds me of Greece!
You have to bring your
lunch on your back
It's unspoilt and beautiful

Martina

The view from the top of Lough Ine
It's beautiful up there
Even the climb up is lovely!

Mary

Sydney Harbour is
The best harbour in the world and
Berehaven Harbour
Is the second best harbour in the world.

Paddy

I've been to Australia and New Zealand
and I have to say that when the days
are sunny there is nowhere in the world more
beautiful than Beara

Colleen

The bridge on the east side of town where the ships come in for oil and to sell herring, mackerel and cod before leaving the harbour mouth and going back out to sea. From the bridge you can see the fields to the west and in March or April the hardy Scotch lambs on the Miskish Mountain.

Tim

Where
The wind
Took
My breath
Away

Rosie

Arts for Health is a partnership programme based in West Cork implementing a managed arts programme for older people in healthcare settings.

It takes place in five Community Hospitals, five Day Care Centres and Bantry General Hospital Care of the Elderly Unit. The partners are West Cork Arts Centre, Cork County Council, Cork Education & Training Board and the HSE. The HSE is represented through the Cork Arts + Health Programme, the Health Promotion Department, the Nursing Directors of Community Hospitals and the Day Care Centres, West Cork.

Arts for Health Partnership



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